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Der Vulkanismus. Von Dr. Walther von Knebel. 128 pp., 3 coloured Plates, Illustrations in the Text, Diagrams, Bibliography, and Index. A. W. Zickfeldt, Osterwieck und Leipzig, 1907. (?) (Price, M. 1.75.)

The book deals first with the results of field study of volcanic activity and secondly with theories as to the origin, various modes of action, and meaning of vulcanism. The author conducts his readers from one volcanic field to another for the purpose of observing and collecting facts. He discusses the question "What is a volcano?" treats of their distribution, the phenomena that accompany volcanic outbursts, volcanic explosions, lava and lava and gas eruptions, and calderas. All this and other information is given in the course of descriptions of these phenomena as they have been observed. The theoretical part of his subject is treated in the concluding chapters and many hints are given as to what and how to observe. The volume is highly to be commended to the general reader and the teacher. It is strikingly illustrated with pictures and a map showing the distribution of younger volcanoes, some of which are now extinct.

River Discharge. By John Clayton Hoyt and Nathan Clifford Grover. viii and 137 pp., Map, Illustrations, Tables, Diagrams, and Index. John Wiley & Sons, New York, and Chapman & Hall, London, 1907. (Price, \$2.)

Prepared for the use of engineers and students. The book gives the fullest information as to the methods of measuring stream flow and the interpretation of the data collected. This information has been so widely scattered in engineering periodicals and government reports that it was not easily accessible. The work therefore is especially timely when so much attention is being given to the flow of streams. The student as well as the engineer may fully profit by its contents.

Le Plateau Central Nigérien. Une Mission Archéologique et Ethnographique au Soudan français. Par Lieutenant Louis Desplagnes. 504 pp., 236 Illustrations from Photographs, and Map in Colours. Émile Larose, Paris, 1907. (Price, 12 fr.)

One of the most notable African books of recent years. The quest for prehistoric monuments and traces of ancient civilizations or barbarisms in tropical Africa is something new. Such researches occupied the archæological and ethnographical mission to the French Sudan which Lieut. Desplagnes commanded. For over two years (1903-6) the expedition worked immediately south of the great northern bend of the Niger, with unexpectedly fruitful results. For the first time, we see on Desplagnes's map the orography of the Hombori Mountain chain and a series of lacustrine basins hitherto unknown. His book is a pioneer contribution from a fresh field to the history of man and the study of a neglected corner of his habitat; and much that the author reveals of prehistoric man in inner Africa is new to science.

Dr. Hamy, the well-known anthropologist and ethnographer, contributes the preface in which he speaks most enthusiastically of the results attained. In his sketch of the geography and geology of the central Nigerian plateau, Desplagnes throws new light upon these immense sedimentary plains diversified by uplifts of plutonic masses and threaded by many water-courses which, with the great river they feed, cover much of the surrounding lands in times of flood.

Sixty-five pages are given to the remarkable vestiges left by the ancient civilizations of the Sudan. The author describes and photographs the weapons